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Forty-seventh session
Item 98 of the provisional agenda*

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Note verbale dated 22 July 1992 from the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to enclose herewith the official communiqué issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 21 July, transmitting the important views of the United Nations Human Rights Committee on the criminal activities of the two terrorist groups Sendero Luminoso ("Shining Path") and the Túpac Amaru revolutionary movement operating in Peru.

I should be grateful if you would have this communiqué distributed as a document of the General Assembly under item 98 of the provisional agenda.

* A/47/150.

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ANNEX

Official communiqué issued on 21 July 1992 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasizes the importance of the statement by the United Nations Human Rights Committee, which characterized the terrorist acts of the Sendero Luminoso ("Shining Path") and the Túpac Amaru revolutionary movement as genocide. The Committee also called for universal condemnation of those crimes.

The United Nations Human Rights Committee, meeting in Geneva, today made that important finding and emphasized that the savage violence of the two terrorist groups constituted genocide, since their actions were aimed not simply at instilling fear in the population but at killing them en masse. In the Committee's view, those terrorist groups must be forcefully punished for their genocidal acts under the law and in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

That Committee is an important organ of the international system for the protection of human rights, and is composed of 18 experts. Its purpose is to examine compliance with the obligations undertaken by States upon becoming parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also draws attention to the recent statement by the Latin American Association for Human Rights (ALDHU), which vehemently condemned the terrorist attack that occurred recently in the Miraflores district and which declared that terrorism had moved to a "higher plane of criminality, the target of its actions being the civilian population, with terror being employed for the purpose of paralysing the whole of society. The aim of subjugating the population through collective and indiscriminate crime constitutes one of the cruellest elements of barbarism, incompatible with democratic life and peaceful coexistence".

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs roundly denounces, before Governments and international organizations, the criminal activities of the terrorist groups in Peru, establishing clearly that they are criminal associations having no justification whatsoever.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs points out that, with this blanket condemnation by the United Nations Human Rights Committee, the international community and its juridical organs have clearly established the criminal nature of these terrorist groups, which therefore cannot be described as groups that have taken up arms, insurgents, guerrillas or opposition groups, as they have been euphemistically defined.

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Items 21, 22, 33, 79, 80
83, 85, 88, 94 and 96
of the provisional agenda*

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

THE SITUATION OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN HAITI

POLICIES OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

NARCOTIC DRUGS

Letter dated 21 July 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

* A/47/150.

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I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the Communiqué of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, which was held at Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 29 June to 2 July 1992 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the Communiqué circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 21, 22, 33, 79, 80, 83, 85, 88, 94 and 96 of the provisional agenda

(Signed) Lennox A. WATTLEY
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Communiqué of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held at Port-of-Spain, from 29 June to 2 July 1992

1. The Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was held at Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, during the period 29 June to 2 July 1992.

2. Heads of Government in attendance were The Rt. Hon. Erskine Sandiford, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, Barbados; The Rt. Hon. George Price, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Belize; Hon. Dame Mary Eugenia Charles, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Dominica; The Rt. Hon. Nicholas Brathwaite, Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs, Grenada; His Excellency Hugh Desmond Hoyte, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana; Hon. Percival J. Patterson, Prime Minister of Jamaica; Hon. Reuben Meade, Chief Minister of Montserrat; Dr. the Rt. Hon. Kennedy Simmonds, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs and Finance, Saint Kitts and Nevis; The Rt. Hon. John Compton, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Planning and Development, Saint Lucia; The Rt. Hon. James Mitchell, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; and Hon. Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. The Antigua and Barbuda delegation was led by Hon. Lester B. Bird, Minister of External Affairs, Planning and Trade, while Hon. Sir Clement Maynard, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Public Personnel, headed the Bahamas delegation.

3. Also in attendance at the deliberations of the Conference was Hon. Ralph O'Neal, Deputy Chief Minister, representing the British Virgin Islands, an associate member of the Caribbean Community.

4. Mr. Roderick Rainford, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, chaired the opening ceremony, held on the evening of Monday, 29 June 1992 at the Trinidad Hilton Hotel, Port-of-Spain.

5. Hon. Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago delivered the opening address. In his statement, Prime Minister Manning emphasized that "integration is not only about action in the political or economic spheres". In his view, actions taken within CARICOM should "not only build on our common heritage and aspirations but strengthen the common identity of our peoples". He also urged that the region needed to formulate a strategy that would effectively deal with the unprecedented challenges inherent in the evolving international system. He foresaw that "any such plan must be a redesigned and strengthened Caribbean Community".

6. Statements were also delivered by the Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis; the Prime Minister of Jamaica; and the President of Guyana.

7. Heads of Government elected Hon. Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago as Chairman of its Thirteenth Meeting. They acknowledged the sound leadership provided during the past year by the outgoing Chairman of the Conference, Dr. the Rt. Hon. Kennedy Simmonds, the Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis, and thanked him for his dedicated attention to the affairs of the Community during his incumbency in the office of Chairman.

8. Heads of Government extended congratulations to Hon. P. J. Patterson on his appointment as Prime Minister of Jamaica, and welcomed him in that capacity to the Conference. Heads of Government also extended congratulations to the Rt. Hon. John Compton on the renewal of his mandate in the recent general elections in his country, Saint Lucia.

I. ORDER OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY

9. Heads of Government were pleased that the opening ceremony of their Thirteenth Meeting was the occasion for the formal conferment of the Order of the Caribbean Community on the first awardees, Hon. William G. Demas, Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, former Secretary-General of CARICOM and former President of the Caribbean Development Bank; Hon. Sir Shridath Ramphal, former Commonwealth Secretary-General and Chairman of the West Indian Commission and Hon. Derek Walcott, renowned West Indian poet and playwright.

10. Heads of Government conveyed their warmest felicitations to the first awardees for their outstanding contribution to the development of the Community and also for the brilliant example they have set for their fellow CARICOM nationals.

II. OVERVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

11. Heads of Government expressed their awareness of the fact that the fundamental changes in international, political and economic relations that started in recent years have continued apace, bringing into focus each passing day the emergence of new political and economic relationships.

12. They recognized that the consolidation of the European Community is being maintained, with the Community establishing dynamic integration linkages with other countries in Europe. The break-up of the old order in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, continues inexorably to work itself out, liberating in the process new political and economic interests and energies that are seeking to establish trade, aid, investment and political links with the industrialized countries and multilateral institutions that have been the traditional sources of support for the development of CARICOM countries.

13. Heads of Government noted with interest the continuing effort of Canada, Mexico, and the United States of America to create a North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA) among themselves, which could lead to a substantial restructuring of trade, aid and investment relations in the hemisphere. They acknowledged once more that this process of transformation presents far-reaching new challenges which member States can meet only through the deepening and widening of the integration movement and by achieving increasingly higher levels of efficiency.

III. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES

14. Heads of Government examined the recent developments in the international economic environment. These developments were characterized by the slow pace of economic recovery in the industrialized countries and a slow-down in the rate of growth of world trade. At the same time, they noted that, among other things, the continuing failure to conclude the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and various aspects of the process of consolidation of economic blocs in Europe and in North America create uncertainties about the region's future economic prospects. They expressed their determination to take all steps necessary to ensure that the access and preferential benefits which the region currently enjoys in its traditional markets are preserved, while intensifying efforts are made to strengthen its international competitiveness.

15. With respect to international finance, they observed that the demand of the economies in the least developed countries and those in transition in Eastern Europe could adversely affect the prospects for increased official financial flows to the developing countries. They emphasized the importance of increasing the flow of investment resources into the region and agreed to continue their efforts to create the environment which would stimulate the flow of such investment.

16. Heads of Government expressed their concern that the issue of relief for debt owed to the multilateral financial institutions still remained unsettled. They reiterated their call to the international community to continue the effort to devise creative approaches for addressing and resolving debt problems, especially those of middle-income countries.

IV. THE WEST INDIAN COMMISSION

17. In the context of this awareness of the complete revision of the international status quo and of the dangers, as well as the opportunities that arise therefrom, Heads of Government expressed their pleasure at the completion of the mandate of the West Indian Commission (WIC), established by their Grand Anse Declaration of 1989, and welcomed with much satisfaction the presentation by its Chairman during their Thirteenth Meeting of the report of the Commission. They were particularly pleased with the wholehearted responses received from citizens of CARICOM and others during the hearings and public meetings conducted by the Commission throughout the Caribbean and beyond.

18. Heads of Government took note of the central recommendations in the Commission's report concerning basic and fundamental changes in the structural arrangement for decision-making and implementation processes in CARICOM, as well as the many wide-ranging recommendations on numerous sectoral and policy issues affecting the life of the Community. They acknowledged that, once again, as at the Chaguaramas Summit in 1973, CARICOM was at a "defining moment" in its evolution, and agreed that it was "Time for Action". In this context, they decided to meet again in special session from 28 to 30 October to consider the WIC report and to determine the action to be taken on its recommendations.

V. THE REGIONAL ECONOMY

19. Heads of Government reviewed the recent trends in the regional economy. They observed that in all but three member States, the gross domestic product in 1991 registered either reduced rates of growth or outright declines. They noted that prospects for the coming months were not favourable and that this situation makes it imperative for the people of the region to practise discipline, hard work and self restraint. They committed themselves to the implementation of the measures necessary for stimulating economic growth and for achieving increased international competitiveness so as to provide the foundations on which the future welfare of the people of the region will rest.

VI. TRADE IN BANANAS AND SUGAR

20. Heads of Government considered the question of the region's trade in bananas and sugar and issued statements on the matter.

VII. TRAVELLING IN THE REGION

21. Heads of Government were pleased that, under the leadership of the Prime Minister of Grenada, and since they last reviewed the matter of travelling in the region at their Inter-Sessional Meeting, held in Jamaica in Februrary 1992, most member States had taken steps to facilitate travel by CARICOM nationals within the region, through the acceptance of forms of identification other than passports and through the establishment of common lines of entry for citizens and residents of CARICOM States. Heads of Government also noted that the few remaining States that have already agreed in principle to these measures, but have not yet implemented them have given an undertaking to do so shortly.

22. Heads of Government also noted plans by the secretariat to convene a Meeting in Trinidad and Tobago of Chief Immigration and Customs Officers to develop strategies to support policies and arrangements for easing the problems of intraregional travel. They looked forward to the development and implementation of schemes, with the involvement of the private sector, for the promotion of youth exchange visits within the Community, which they are

confident could only lead to the fostering of closer ties among the people of the region.

VIII. FREE MOVEMENT OF SKILLS

23. Heads of Government reaffirmed their commitment to the principle of Free Movement of Skills in the region. They complimented President Hugh Desmond Hoyte of Guyana on the work he had done towards the facilitation of free movement of skills in the region. They regretted the slow pace of progress towards this goal and invited President Hoyte to continue his efforts on the matter through appropriate consultations.

IX. SINGLE MARKET AND ECONOMY

24. Heads of Government were gratified that under the leadership of the Prime Minister of Barbados, emphasis continues to be placed by Governments within the Community on the movement towards the creation of the CARICOM single market and economy. While regretting the slight decline in intraregional trade indicated for 1991, they nevertheless remained confident that, with the progressive establishment of all the elements of the single market, a framework will have been created within which intraregional and extraregional trade can be stimulated.

25. In this regard, Heads of Government, recalling the lead that they had already given in the Grand Anse Declaration, registered their acceptance and endorsement of the main elements that comprise the CARICOM single market and economy, as well as the schedule for its implementation. In view of the developments in the international economy, they approved a set of measures designed to move the process forward in a concerted and integrated manner.

26. They were particularly encouraged by the progress that had been made, under the leadership of the Prime Minister of Jamaica, in developing arrangements for the establishment of a regional CARICOM Investment Fund, which they hope will in due course take its place as a strategic component in the regional institutional infrastructure for the free movement of capital.

X. MONETARY UNION

27. Heads of Government received a report from the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago on progress made towards monetary integration. The report reviewed the current macroeconomic environment and performance of the various member States and noted the differences therein and the need for adjustment and stabilization in some countries. The report also identified the costs and benefits involved in the process.

28. They noted that the report, however, proposed that the movement towards monetary integration should take place in three phases with the goal of

attaining full union by the year 2000. The first phase would involve the coordination of monetary policies and the movement towards intraregional currency convertibility. This stage would be initiated with the formalization of a Council of Central Bank Governors. The second stage would require the maintenance of parities within an agreed band by those countries which have not yet achieved macroeconomic stability.

29. At stage three, on agreement by the Heads of Government, a Caribbean Monetary Authority would be established with power to issue a single currency. This Authority would be accountable to a Council of Ministers of Finance.

30. Heads of Government noted the report and endorsed the approach towards the achievement of monetary union.

XI. REGIONAL MARITIME TRANSPORT

31. Heads of Government noted with regret that unfavourable financial circumstances have led to the cessation of the operations of the West Indies Shipping Corporation (WISCO). Notwithstanding this development, however, they reiterated their commitment to the provision of adequate shipping services in the region.

32. In that connection, Heads of Government welcomed the recommendations of the Standing Committee of Ministers responsible for Transportation that private sector equity participation and management be sought with a view to the provision by September 1992 of shipping and passenger ferry services to meet the needs of the region and, that member Governments would, on a national basis, seek to make appropriate arrangements to facilitate the movement of carriers into and out of their ports.

XII. PRIVATIZATION OF BWIA AND LIAT

33. Heads of Government noted the report of the Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on efforts towards the privatization/divestment of LIAT and BWIA. They agreed that regional Governments should take steps to privatize LIAT expeditiously and supported the decision of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to proceed with its own divestment of BWIA and to allow equity participation by CARICOM institutions and nationals in BWIA. Having regard to the critical need of maintaining the operations of a truly regional carrier in the Caribbean, they strongly urged those member States in the Eastern Caribbean controlling international airports to designate BWIA as their national airline and formalize bilateral air-service agreements with Trinidad and Tobago by 30 September 1992.

XIII. CARIFESTA

34. Heads of Government applauded the preparations for CARIFESTA V which is to be hosted by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago from 22 to 28 August 1992.

35. Heads of Government noted that the range of activities being planned included symposia, a regional exhibition of the visual and plastic arts, a regional grand market and a village of indigenous people. They expressed the view that the major symposia to take place during that week, which would focus on arts and culture in development, would be of particular relevance in determining the scale, scope and operational arrangements for future CARIFESTAs.

36. Reiterating that excellence should be the hallmark of CARIFESTA V, Heads of Government looked forward to the celebration of a "CARIFESTA Week" in their respective countries, coinciding with the celebration in Trinidad and Tobago.

XIV. TOURISM

37. Heads of Government expressed satisfaction at the progress made in the implementation of several of the decisions taken at the CARICOM Tourism Summit in February this year. They were particularly impressed with the collaboration of the public and private sectors in the establishment of the Marketing Trust Fund and the development of the marketing programme. They reiterated their conviction that joint and coordinated action by the public and all segments of the private sector is critical to the success of the industry in this very competitive international environment. In this context, they were concerned that the cruise-ship lines have not yet agreed to mobilize the portion of the marketing budget allocated to them. They confirmed their willingness to discuss this and other issues with the cruise lines and appointed the Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis to head a team of Ministers to meet with senior executives of the cruise lines.

38. Heads of Government welcomed the progress being made with the cruise lines to increase the sourcing of supplies in the region and to deal with environmental concerns. They looked forward to continued action in these areas.

39. Heads of Government were extremely disappointed to learn of the delay in the implementation of the European Marketing Programme. They urged the European Community to ensure that there was no further undue delay.

XV. CARIBBEAN DISASTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE AGENCY

40. Heads of Government expressed satisfaction that the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), established in accordance with a decision of their Eleventh Meeting, came into operation in September 1991, with

headquarters in Barbados. They expressed the view that this Agency will be of strategic significance in the overall regional management of disaster preparedness and prevention and looked forward to the full development of its role. They noted with satisfaction the initial activities undertaken by CDERA and expressed appreciation to Barbados for the headquarters facilities provided.

41. They welcomed in particular the financial and other forms of support to the Agency which have been forthcoming from the United Nations Development Programme and other international aid agencies, and looked forward to the maintenance of this support in the future.

XVI. CHOLERA

42. Heads of Government acknowledged and supported the continuing efforts being made by several agencies in the health sector to guard against any further occurrences of cases of cholera in the region.

43. They also endorsed the strategies, advocated by the Conference of Ministers of Health, for implementation of national emergency cholera preparedness plans and the putting in place of acceptable levels of infrastructural capacity to give adequate coverage and protection against cholera and other communicable diseases as the region moves towards attaining the wider goal of health for all by the year 2000.

44. Heads of Government reaffirmed their commitment, made at the first Regional Economic Conference, held in Trinidad and Tobago in February 1991, and more recently enunciated in Agenda 21 adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to promote an intersectoral approach to the development planning process, which would pay due attention to the inextricable relationship between health and development and which would seek to incorporate the principles for sustainable development.

XVII. CARIBBEAN SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

45. Heads of Government commended Prime Minister Sandiford on his presentation of the report on the Caribbean Summit for Children, which was held in Barbados in November 1991. They noted the Summit's mandate to seek the promotion and enhancement of not only the rights of the region's children but also the safeguards which protect the quality of life for them. They also noted the eight recommendations of the Summit and agreed to use their best endeavours to implement them at the national and regional levels.

XVIII. CARICOM-CANADA RELATIONS

46. Heads of Government welcomed the convening in April 1992 of the Sixth Meeting of the CARICOM/Canada Joint Trade and Economic Committee (JTEC) and,

in this connection, they referred to the traditional special relationship that has historically characterized relations between CARICOM member States and Canada and looked forward to the continuing development of that relationship.

47. They drew attention to the increasing importance of that special relationship, particularly in the light of ongoing changes in the international political and economic environment, and reaffirmed their appreciation of Canada's stated commitment that the volume of resources being channelled to the region would not be affected by the increased Canadian interest in other areas of the world.

48. They reiterated their commitment to work towards increased levels of technical and economic cooperation between the Caribbean Community and Canada.

XIX. CARICOM-USA JOINT COUNCIL

49. Heads of Government welcomed the convening in April 1992 of the First Meeting of the CARICOM-United States Trade and Investment Council, which provided a useful forum for the discussion of mutually agreed trade issues. They reiterated their position that, within the context of the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative (EAI), full account must be taken of the differences in the economic structures and circumstances of the parties.

50. Heads of Government emphasized the importance of expanding trade relations with the United States of America to the development of their economies, and in this regard noted the list of "agreed action items" prepared by both parties and urged that efforts be made to deal with the matters expeditiously.

XX. CARICOM/CENTRAL AMERICA RELATIONS

51. Heads of Government welcomed the further development of relations between the Caribbean Community and Latin America. They particularly welcomed the developments aimed at the strengthening of relations between the Caribbean Community and the countries of Central America, particularly the convening in Honduras in January 1992 of the First Ministerial Conference between CARICOM and the countries of the Central American Isthmus.

52. Heads of Government expressed their readiness to work towards greater understanding by the Central American States with regard to the region's trade in bananas.

XXI. CARICOM/VENEZUELA RELATIONS

53. Heads of Government welcomed the progress made towards the conclusion of an agreement between the Caribbean Community and the Republic of Venezuela on trade and investment. They urged that the necessary action be undertaken in

good time to enable the Agreement, the draft of which was finalized by the CARICOM/Venezuela Joint Council in June 1992, to enter into force by 1 January 1993.

XXII. HAITI

54. Heads of Government were pleased to hold audience with President Jean Bertrand Aristide of Haiti during the course of their meeting and to receive from him and the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS) a status report/update on developments in Haiti.

55. They deplored the fact that the return of the democratically elected Government of Haiti had not yet been realized despite the several resolutions passed at the level of the OAS General Assembly on initiatives aimed at isolating the illegal regime in Haiti and to restore democracy in that country. They noted with regret that these resolutions, including that contained in the Nassau Agreement, had not been fully implemented by all OAS member States and urged countries parties to these resolutions to introduce, as a matter of priority, legislation which would enable the provisions of the Nassau Agreement to be upheld.

56. In doing so they also called on the international community to continue to support the principle of the evolution of democracy in Haiti. They reiterated their support for the Protocol signed at Washington, D.C. under the auspices of OAS as the basis of resolving the conflict.

57. Heads of Government reiterated the special concern of the people of the Caribbean Community for the people of Haiti and looked forward to the day when Haitian people would once more enjoy their democratic rights. In this regard they expressed concern over the plight of the Haitian refugees and welcomed the assistance granted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. They reiterated the call made upon the international financial institutions as well as donor countries, by their Foreign Ministers, to make available the necessary resources to assist in the development of Haiti once agreement has been reached for the restoration of constitutional Government.

58. Heads of Government decided to pursue a new initiative by seeking to mobilize the resources of the United Nations to assist in resolving the Haitian crisis, and agreed to pursue this objective through OAS.

XXIII. CUBA

59. Heads of Government expressed satisfaction at the normalization of relations between Grenada and Cuba. They considered that this development paved the way for the resumption of formal contacts, including the joint development and implementation of technical cooperation programmes, between the Community and that neighbouring Caribbean country in areas of mutual interest. In this connection, they noted with satisfaction that Cuba has been

admitted to the membership of the Caribbean Tourism Organization and agreed to establish a CARICOM/Cuba Joint Commission, both of these providing yet other avenues for cooperation.

XXIV. OBSERVER STATUS

Aruba

60. Heads of Government approved the granting of Observer Status to Aruba in a number of institutions of the Caribbean Community.

XXV. BELIZE/GUATEMALA

61. Heads of Government welcomed the recent positive developments in the relationship between the Governments of Belize and Guatemala.

62. They expressed confidence that the time was propitious to move forward on the major initiative taken by Belize and Guatemala to end the ancient controversy.

63. The Heads of Government reaffirmed support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Belize.

64. They viewed Guatemala's recognition of the independence of Belize and the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries as positive developments facilitating the deepening of relations between member States of the Caribbean Community and the countries of Central America.

XXVI. GUYANA/VENEZUELA

65. Heads of Government reviewed the developments in the relations between Guyana and Venezuela.

66. Heads of Government expressed their satisfaction with the positive expansion of functional cooperation in several areas between the two countries and also took note of the interplay of current developments within the general context of the bilateral relationship.

67. Heads of Government reaffirmed their confidence that Guyana and Venezuela would continue to explore all initiatives under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to advance the McIntyre Process in the search for a peaceful resolution of the controversy arising from the Venezuelan territorial claim.

68. In taking note of these several developments, Heads of Government reaffirmed their support for the territorial integrity of Guyana.

XXVII. UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

69. Heads of Government took particular note of the recent United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 14 June 1992. It brought together political leaders of over 170 countries and many international, regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations and provided an occasion for a meeting of non-governmental organizations from all over the world.

70. They were pleased that the Conference dealt with environment and development in an integrated manner and that many issues of particular concern to CARICOM countries were addressed. These included the sustainability of islands, the alleviation of poverty, the sustainable development of all types of forests and the environmentally sound management of solid wastes.

71. In that context, Heads of Government were particularly pleased that eight CARICOM member States were among some 154 countries that signed the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biodiversity. They welcomed the information that the remaining CARICOM States would sign the two Conventions in New York as soon as possible. They urged early ratification of the two Conventions to make them operative. They noted that, while the provisions of these two Conventions were not as strong and as binding as CARICOM States had expected, they would, if honestly implemented, mitigate some threats that Caribbean small-island and low-lying, coastal-developing States face and lead to the conservation and beneficial utilization of rich terrestrial and marine diversity. They expressed the hope that the parties to the Convention would initiate action to strengthen these Conventions, through appropriate protocols or other means.

72. Heads of Government expressed satisfaction that a basis has been laid for a balanced approach to the treatment of the world's forests. They reaffirmed their acceptance of the importance of the sustainable management of all forests. They recalled their support for the Government of Guyana/Commonwealth Iwokrama Tropical Forestry Programme and welcomed the support given to this initiative in Rio.

73. Heads of Government committed themselves to participate fully in, and to take advantage of, the new international institutional arrangements and facilities, which will complement their own efforts to address environment and development concerns at national and regional levels. In this regard, they agreed that the Task Force, which prepared the regional positions for UNCED, should continue to operate with a view to facilitating the implementation of the decisions of UNCED.

74. Heads of Government commended President Hoyte for the effective coordination of CARICOM efforts in the preparatory process and at the Conference in Rio.

XXVIII. DRUGS

75. Heads of Government were deeply concerned that the Caribbean region has become a significant transshipment point for illicit drugs targeted at the North American and European markets. In addition, they recognized the acute danger posed to the social fabric of CARICOM member States by drug addiction and drug trafficking whose devastating and destabilizing effects are well documented.

76. They accepted a proposal by the Trinidad and Tobago Government that a two-part Conference of Ministers and High-Level Officials be held in Port-of-Spain, with a view to assessing and identifying the scope and nature of the problem and the existing and proposed measures to combat it; evaluating the progress achieved in pursuit of the Action Plan adopted by the Caribbean Ministerial Law Enforcement Conference, held in Kingston, Jamaica, in October 1989; and developing a revised Action Plan with firm proposals for follow-up action and for monitoring its implementation.

XXIX. DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

77. Heads of Government reviewed developments in South Africa with a deep sense of disquiet. They expressed their general concern at the climate of violence directed principally against members of the African National Congress (ANC) and specifically condemned the recent massacre of over 40 Africans at Boipatong. Mindful of the gross inhumanity of this slaughter, and of its adverse implications for the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) negotiating process and progress towards a free and democratic South Africa, Heads of Government were determined to do all in their power to contribute to a reversal of these trends. In this connection, they recalled with satisfaction the action they have been able to take through the Commonwealth.

78. As a first step, they joined in the call issued during their Conference in Port-of-Spain by the Organization of African Unity, meeting simultaneously at the Summit in Dakar, for an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council to consider these developments in South Africa.

79. Both in the context of that meeting of the Security Council and, more generally, Heads of Government reiterated their solidarity with the anti-apartheid struggle and called on the South AFrican regime to take immediate measures to bring its police and security forces under effective control. In expressing their full support for the call by ANC for an international investigation of the Boipatong massacre, they called on the South African regime to move rapidly to restoring a climate propitious to the resumption of the CODESA negotiating process on a basis of reduced intransigence from the regime, and the establishment of a democratic non-racial South Africa.

80. In transmitting their sentiments of solidarity and support to the President of ANC, Nelson Mandela, whom they had recently received in the CARICOM region, Heads of Government gave the assurance that they stood ready, if present trends in South Africa were not rapidly reversed, to join in re-mobilizing the international community through all appropriate means in the struggle against apartheid.

XXX. SECRETARY-GENERAL

81. Heads of Government expressed their profound appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Roderick G. Rainford for his outstanding contribution to the Community over the several years of his association with it.

82. Heads of Government expressed particular satisfaction with Mr. Rainford's efficient and dedicated service during the period of his tenure as Secretary-General, during which the Community was required to confront many critical challenges both at the regional and wider international levels.

83. They conveyed their very best wishes for his continued success and expressed the hope that the Community would be able to draw on his expertise in the future.

84. Heads of Government look forward to the tenure of Mr. Edwin Carrington as the new Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community and reaffirm their confidence in his ability to steer the Community during this critical period when once more the regional integration movement has arrived at a significant milestone in its existence.

XXXI. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

85. Heads of Government reaffirmed their earlier acceptance of the offer of the Government of the Bahamas to host the Fourteenth Meeting of the Conference.

86. They accepted the offer of the Government of Barbados to host the Fifteenth Meeting.

87. Heads of Government also accepted the offer of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to host the Special Meeting of the Conference, which will convene from 28 to 30 October 1992 to consider the Final Report of the West Indian Commission, and the offer of the Government of Dominica to host the Fourth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference.